



## **Mark Mata**

Mark Anthony Mata II obtained a Bachelor of Science in University Studies with a concentration in Dance and minors in Psychology and Sports Management from Texas A&M University – College Station. He started his dancing journey his junior year of high school by joining the award winning Thomas Jefferson High School Lassos Dance Team under the direction of Nikki Howell. While on team he traveled to many events for performance opportunities including the Capital of Texas, competed in many competitions, and won first-runner up in the solo division his senior year. Mark has also had the opportunity to go to Chicago, Illinois and attend the first annual Camp Kate, where he was selected as a scholarship student from Kate Jablonski in 2011. In addition, he has had the privilege to take master classes from Marlana Doyle (Houston Met), Andy Vaca, Elizabeth Ahearn, Angelie Renay Melzer, Ana Baer, Emma Portner, Phil Wright, Rudy Abreu, Molly Long, and Emily Shock. As a student, Mark performed all four years in the Texas A&M University Dance Program Annual Concert "Perpetual Motion," where he was chosen for a rework duet titled "Cracking the Geode," choreographed by Carisa Armstrong and in the ensemble "Rapid Eye Movement," choreographed by Alyson Dolan. Furthermore, Mark travelled to Pittsburgh, PA in 2015 to attend the International Association for Dance Medicine & Science for a more in depth look into new technologies being used for dance anatomy research. Mark was also an integral voice in various college dance organizations such as Fade2Black and the Texas A&M Dance Arts Society where he won "Best New Choreographer," for his piece "Roll Up Your Sleeves." After graduating, Mark was announced as an ambassador for Travis Wall's "Shaping Sound," Tour and was given the opportunity to be on the production team during the duration of the tour in Texas. Currently, Mark is an educator and studio instructor where he advocates for injury prevention and style development in all genres of dance that he professes.